

CLIMATE JUSTICE, REDISTRIBUTION, AND ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

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Climate change is inexorably heightening the inequities of the global economy – which are also dramatized in North America by the Occupy movements, in Europe by the Euromarket crisis, and for decades globally in calls for “economic development”. The need for economic redistribution – negative feedbacks on the tendency for concentration of wealth in market systems – is evident and pressing. Ecological economists and degrowth theorists have considered a range of methods for bringing about redistribution along with lower material throughput in economic systems. Indigenous and aboriginal traditions also provide insights into cultural practices which facilitate ecologically and socially sustainable societies. Climate justice activists are calling for global redistribution in payment of the “climate debt” owed by the rich.

This paper brings together a range of insights and ideas on redistribution and climate justice, considering them from a feminist ecological economics perspective.